

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated July 28, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 11, 12, 21, and 22 are pending. Claims 1, 21, and 22 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 11-12, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969 to Driscoll ("Driscoll") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,762,794 to Ogino ("Ogino"). Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ogino.

Driscoll shows a system for creating a panoramic image. FIG. 9B, as cited in the Office Action shows a parabolic mirror 910 that is quartered into pie-pieces (see, Col. 7, lines 64-67) to create the panoramic image.

Ogina shows a stereo camera 1 having right optical system 101 and left optical system 102 (see, Col. 5, lines 30-36). Ogina has a system for adjusting a spacing between the optical systems 101, 102 and an angle between the optical systems 101, 102.

The system of Claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Driscoll in view of Ogino. For example, Driscoll

in view of Ogino does disclose or suggest, a system that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "a set of planar mirrors angled with respect to each other at a predetermined angle relative to a centrally located common plane intersecting said camera, each planar mirror having adjacent ends positioned at a common point and disposed a predetermined distance from the camera along the common plane, for directing light from an object reflected in said planar mirrors along a straight line of sight directly from said planar mirrors to the camera, for producing a stereo effect in the output of the camera" as required by Claim 1, and as substantially required by the method of Claim 21. Driscoll requires a parabolic mirror to create the panoramic image. Ogino does nothing to cure this deficiency in Driscoll.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 21 are patentable over Driscoll in view of Ogino and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 3-6, 11, and 12 depend from Claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of said claims. Accordingly, separate consideration and allowance of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

The method of Claim 22 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Driscoll in view of Ogino. For example, Driscoll

in view of Ogino does disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "angle adjustment means for adjusting the predetermined angle of at least one of the two cameras; baseline adjustment means for adjusting the predetermined distance between the two cameras; distance adjusting means for adjusting a distance between at least one of the two cameras and the object of interest, wherein the distance adjusting means adjusts the distance independent of an angle of the at least one of the two cameras" as required by Claim 22. The Office Action cites "by changing the angle of the cameras C_L and C_R , the distance to an object is changed" but this does not adjust the distance independent of the angle.

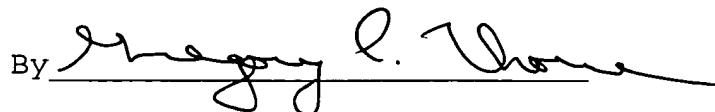
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 22 is patentable over Ogino and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded. And in particular no official notices are conceded.

PATENT
Serial No. 09/808,377
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of July 28, 2005

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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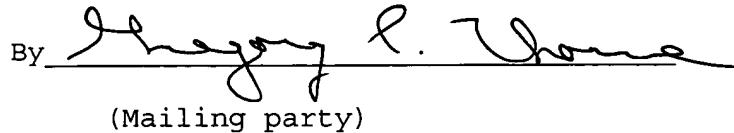
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